

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 1998-09-05
Segment 3
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Mary Lou Smoke reads a press release from the Coalition for the Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George. Three years after he was fatally shot, the Coalition has still not been granted a full and impartial public inquiry. Dan and Mary Lou Smoke tell listeners about events that will take place to commemorate the third anniversary of his death. After, Dan Smoke also presents listeners with a brief update about Leonard Peltier.

Host(s): Dan Smoke, Mary Lou Smoke

DAN SMOKE: Mary Lou's going to read a press release for the **Coalition for the Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George**, a **Stony Point** brother, defender of the land. And this Coalition has been planning actions and trying to uncover the cover up of the provincial Harris government.

MARY LOU SMOKE: Miigwetch, Dan. This was sent to us by our friend in Toronto, Anne Pole. The Stony Point Cover-Up, Part 1: The Police Assault. "Three years have passed since Dudley was shot, and still the Harris government is silent," said Mike Eschbach, a spokesperson for the Coalition for a public inquiry. Calls for a public inquiry have been rejected, just like the family's demands for a coroner's inquest. There is no legal impediment to an inquiry. We want to know what Harris is hiding. On September 6, 1995, Dudley George, a First Nations man of **Potawatomi** heritage, was fatally shot during an 11:00 pm assault by Ontario Provincial Police on a non-violent occupation at **Ipperwash Provincial Park**, which had closed for the season. The Aboriginal occupation was in defence of land and treaty right issues which had been unresolved for almost 60 years, including disturbances of centuries old cemeteries. "The popular theatre skit that we have planned for September 6th will deal with the fact that the OPP assault took place in the darkness in the middle of the night," said Anne Pole, one of the event organizers. The part of the story we will tell is a matter of public record, but only because of now finished criminal trials. We have never had a public investigation into why these abuses happened at night, so in many ways the skit raises more questions than it answers. The skit is part of our candlelight vigil, which will take place September 6th from 10:00 pm to midnight. The skit will be performed at the approximate time that Dudley was shot, and that was around 11:00.

For the past three years, Aboriginal, Canadian, and international organizations, including the **Assembly of First Nations**, the Canadian Labour Congress, the United Church of Canada, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, and Amnesty International have called for a full, impartial public inquiry into the causes of the apparent human and civil rights abuses which occurred in the darkness at Ipperwash Park that night. Repeated requests by the family for the inquiry or a coroner's inquest have fallen on deaf ears. In December 1997, the George family and dozens of organizations calling for this inquiry formed a Coalition for a Public Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George to press the Harris government for political accountability. It is known that Harris aids and cabinet ministers were part of the decision-making process which led to this fatal shooting. On June 23rd, the Coalition placed a request before the Ontario Ombudsman to investigate actions and inactions by provincial employees and officials who were part of this sequence of events. The Coalition has also began contacting international supporters in the event that the port of last hope, the Ombudsman, comes to naught. Aboriginal and Ontario citizens and leaders will attend the vigil to support the ongoing efforts for a full, impartial public inquiry into the events that led to Dudley George's death, and you can call Anne Pole in Toronto at [redacted]. And the Ombudsman is Roberta Jamieson, right?

DS: Yes. Miigwetch, nya:weh, Mary Lou! And some anniversary events that are taking place out at Stony Point. As the sun rises over the Lake Huron shore near Ipperwash Provincial Park tomorrow, a small group of people will join in a **smudging ceremony** to mark the day three years ago that Dudley George was fatally shot. The group will gather at the spot where Dudley George fell. In the afternoon, a feast commemorating Dudley will be held at nearby Stony Point in the mess hall. "Everyone is welcome at both events," said Dudley George's brother, Pierre. At **Kettle Point**, Sam George—another of Dudley's brothers—will hold a quiet family feast in the afternoon. At Queen's Park, groups calling for a public inquiry into George's death will begin a vigil at 10:00 pm, about the time that police were moving into formation to advance on Native protestors at Ipperwash three years ago. "At 11:00 pm, the time of the clash between police and Natives, the group will present a skit of the sounds of that night," said Anne Pole, a spokesperson for the Coalition for a Public Inquiry into the Death of Dudley George.

She has been told Queen's Park will not turn outside lights on for the group, creating what Pole says is the proper backdrop for its skit. Quote, "It's appropriate because everything about the shooting is in the dark. That's why we'll be there. We're already in the dark." The Coalition includes Native, faith, student, anti-poverty, anti-racist, human rights, and labour groups. Organizers say it's impossible to put a number on their membership. And I also just wanted to share with you that this invitation is extended to everybody. It's just down outside what used to be the Park. It's now **Stony Point-Aazhooдена** territory, just outside the gates there. Just outside the fence. You'll see the people assembled there at sunrise tomorrow morning. So, if you're wanting to also do a releasing of the spirit for Dudley George, then that's the time to do it. That would be the time to come together because that'll make the prayer circle stronger, the healing energy stronger.

DS: Also, we wanted to share with you that **Leonard Peltier**, Leonard Peltier, our **Ojibwe-Lakota** brother will be celebrating his...I'm not really sure how old, I think he's 54 years old...on September the 12th, next Saturday. So, cards, US Postal money orders, paperback books, pictures—not Polaroid—can be sent to United States Prison at **Leavenworth**. Leonard Peltier, his prisoner's number [redacted], Leavenworth, Kansas, zip code [redacted]. And that's post office box [redacted]. Also, the medical suit against the prison has been filed. A medical suit stemming from Leonard's, the surgery that ruined his jaw, preventing him from being able to eat food, eat solid food, so now he's in pain when he eats solid food. He has to eat almost like a liquid diet. So, a copy of the medical suit against the prison will be on the Internet in due time, in due course. Okay, so that's ***In the Spirit of Crazy Horse***.

DS: I guess there has...right now, we're going to feature...who, Mary Lou?

MLS: Okay. We've got **Murray Porter** all set up. Murray Porter's going to be in the area around the 5th and 6th of October, and he's going to be at Sarnia, and he's going to be having a concert on, and we'll give you more details about that when we have the announcements go on.